

over one thousand, but according to the American Cancer Society, these numbers have been falling since the 1990s.

However, there is always more to be done and we can all get involved in promoting breast cancer awareness.

This Sunday is the 16th Annual Komen Lowcountry Race for the Cure in Charleston, and I congratulate our local affiliate staff, Lindsay Wiltshire, Michelle Temple, Lucy Spears, Taffy Tamblin and Patricia Simon for their hard work organizing this event.

Their efforts bring us all closer to the ultimate goal of a world without breast cancer and we are very proud of them and all of their efforts in the First District.

A TRIBUTE TO GREEN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL LADY DRAGONS GOLF TEAM

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Green County High School Lady Dragons Golf Team on their outstanding performance this season.

On October 10, 2009, the team won Green County High School's first KHSAA Girls State Golf Championship, bringing statewide attention to their school.

Under the leadership of Coach Rick Davis, the Lady Dragons remained steadfast throughout the tournament weekend and shot an impressive two-day total of 113-over par to win the tournament by six shots.

To reach the state championship tournament, the Lady Dragons won the 4th Region Title on September 29, 2009, in a two-hole playoff, defeating Glasgow High School, the defending state champion.

The Lady Dragons' performance is a testament to their hard work and dedication. I want to congratulate team members Sydney Agee, Cassidy Scantland, Leah Rose Judd, Olivia Parrott, Sydney Smith, and Kate Larimore and Coach Rick Davis and wish them nothing but the best in their future endeavors.

MARITIME WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker I rise before you today in support of H.R. 2651, the "Maritime Workforce Development Act". I would like to thank my colleague, Rep. CUMMINGS, for introducing this act, as well as the co-sponsors.

This bill would amend Title 46 of the United States Code to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a student loan program to attract the next generation of workers to the good paying jobs available in the maritime industry. The loan program will also help those already in the industry obtain the certifications and training they need to move ahead in their careers.

According to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, in 2006, there were more than 38,000 on-the-water jobs in sea, coastal, and Great Lakes transportation, and nearly 23,000 in the inland water transportation industry. Many of those who currently work in the industry are nearing retirement age. Thus, the Maritime Administration indicated that at the time of our hearing, the average age of a mariner with a Master's license was 51 while the average age of a Chief Engineer was 50.

Additionally, significant new standards for training and continuing education have been applied to mariners through the 1995 amendments to the Convention on the Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping. These standards have rightly been set to improve safety in the maritime industry by reducing human factors as the causes of maritime accidents but they have also imposed expensive and time-consuming training requirements on mariners—particularly on those who are looking to upgrade a document or license to move up the career ladder.

While there are many facilities in the United States that provide outstanding training programs for those seeking to enter or advance in the maritime field, tuition can be very expensive. Further, the types of training programs in which mariners enroll are unique—and are not easily served by existing loan programs. Mariners who have already begun their careers rarely enroll in 2- or 4-year educational programs. Instead, they typically enroll in multi-week courses to obtain a specific new certification—and they enroll in such courses several times a year.

This bill provides a loan program to individuals in the maritime industry that is tailored to their specific needs and to the types of training programs that serve them. Using the model of existing student loan programs, it creates a maritime-focused student loan program through which individuals can receive up to \$60,000 in loans over the course of a lifetime. This grant program would support the growing number of maritime-themed educational institutions—including high schools—throughout the country as they work to expand maritime education opportunities and attract new individuals to a field critical to the success of our national economy.

The bill also authorizes the appropriation of \$10 million in each of fiscal years 2010 through 2015 to support loans. Additionally, this legislation authorizes the appropriation of \$10 million in each of fiscal years 2010 through 2015 to enable the Department of Transportation to award grants to maritime training institutions to support their efforts to develop and implement programs to address mariner recruitment, training, and retention issues.

HONORING THOMAS AND THELMA ZEKOS

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of my good friends the late Thomas and Thelma Zekos of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. Mr. and Mrs. Zekos inspired those that knew them, dedicating their service

to the advancement of the local community. In acknowledgement of their devotion and commitment to the Shrewsbury Democratic Town Committee, the annual Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Awards are being dedicated in their memory.

Tom and Thelma were proud to make Shrewsbury their home knowing it was an excellent place to raise a family. They wanted the best for their children and instilled in them strong values and believed a quality education was absolutely essential. Their formula for a bright and successful future was to work hard and play by the rules.

Mr. and Mrs. Zekos were inspiring and impassioned Democrats. They believed their family would be best served by supporting candidates who espoused Democratic principles. Throughout their 50 years of marriage, they worked tirelessly for an array of Democratic candidates. They always went the extra mile. I will be forever grateful to them for their support and friendship over the years.

Tom and Thelma Zekos's dedication and commitment to a strong work ethic and moral values made an impact on our community. In tribute to their outstanding service to the community of Shrewsbury and to the Democratic Party, I am proud to honor the memory of Tom and Thelma with the dedication of the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Awards to them. I know all my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to them both today.

RECOGNIZING 100 YEARS OF MILITARY AVIATION

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud cosponsor of H. Res. 445, a resolution recognizing 100 years of military aviation and expressing continued support for the military aviators of the United States Armed Forces.

Military aviators have had a long history of defending our nation at home and abroad, as well as supplying humanitarian assistance throughout the world. From the very first military purchase of the Wright Military Flyer in 1909, we have been privileged as a nation for the service of the world's best aviators, as well as the finest platforms in which they fly. In fact, the most technologically advanced fighter jet in the world is the F-22A Raptor—proudly manufactured in the 11th District of Georgia which is my honor to represent. Throughout both World Wars, the Vietnam War, and Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, aviators have been a critical component to successful combat from establishing air superiority to providing invaluable logistical and intelligence support to the Armed Forces.

Mr. Speaker, we must take a moment to recognize the communities around the nation that lend support to these aviators and their families. Again, I am proud to mention Marietta, Georgia, which is in my district and is home to Dobbins Air Reserve Base. The 94th Airlift Wing at Dobbins is part of the Air Force Reserve Command and provides the Department of Defense with exceptional C-130 Hercules training and combat-ready units ready to